

1. A method for distributing electronic content using a computer network comprising the steps of:

establishing permission to use the requested content;

enabling the consumer to use the delivered content in accordance with the established permission; and

2. A system for distributing electronic content comprising:

a reference service module for maintaining offers for the content received by the production system module;

a retail web site module for receiving a request from a consumer for specified content where the request is made by the consumer selecting a particular offer associated with the specified content;

a content catalog module for searching through the content received by the production system module in response to a request from a consumer for content;

a delivery service module for delivering the specified content to the consumer in response to a request for the specified content from the consumer;

a consumer player module for using the specified content in accordance with the selected offer; and

a financial clearinghouse module ~~for~~ processing payment for the content used by the consumer using the consumer player module in accordance with the specified offer.

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